Violation of Forest Conservation Act in Karnataka

2375. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated 18th September 1992 regarding violation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) A news item has appeared in Indian Express dated 17th September, 1992 regarding alleged violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in Karnataka. Detailed report in this regard has been sought from Karnataka State Government and State Government have been asked to cancel all allotment orders issued, if any, on forest land under 'ASHRAYA' scheme, in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

वनों में जन्तुओं की संख्या में कमी

2376. श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल: क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश के वनों में वन्य प्राणियों, पक्षियों और जन्तुओं आदि की संख्या घटती जा रही है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि जिन कर्मचारियों को वनों की निगरानी करने का कार्य सौंपा गया है वे ही शिकार-चोरों को संरक्षण देते हैं; और

(ग) सरकार का इस स्थिति को नियंत्रित करने के लिए क्या कार्रवाही करने का विचार है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) और (ख) जी, नहीं ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Ganga Action Plan

2377. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan, Holland, Britain and the World Bank are ready to lend India Rs. 650 crore for the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan but the State Governments of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal have not prepared detailed plans on how the Ganga and its major tributaries are to be cleaned up;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) On the basis of proposals prepared by the Governments of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Government of Japan only has pledged a soft loan of Yen 17.77 billion (equivalent to Rs. 401 crores) for the pollution abatement of river Yamuna as part of second phase of the Ganga Action Plan.

(b) and (c) Proposals for the other components of the second phase of Ganga Action Plan are under formulation by the concerned State Governments.

Project for development of forests of Andhra Pradesh

2378. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have submitted any project for the development of forests with the World Bank assistance to the tune of Rs. 350 crores :

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the project has been sanctioned;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (e) The Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a project proposal for forestry development which was posed to the World Bank for providing financial assistance. A World Bank Mission is currently in Andhra Pradesh to carry out the pre-appraisal of the project. After this exercise has been completed, the project will be appraised by the World Bank with a view to negotiating the final agreement to finance the project.

The total project outlay expected to be about Rs. 334 crores for a period of six years. The various activities included are tree planting, natural regeneration pasture development, wildlife conservation, research, training etc.

Lifting of Ban on Monkey Export

2379. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Times of India dated 13th November, 1992 under the heading "Pressure to lift ban on monkey export"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal to change the present policy.

Environment Protection Act

2380. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in Economic Times dated 1st November, 1992 to the effect that there has been an undue delay in the enactment of the proposed Environment protection Act resulting further extension of deadline for filing of objections on draft notifications;

(b) whether it is a fact that some vested interests are causing this delay which in turn is causing invaluable harm to environmental protection and violation of codes for ecological upkeep; and

(c) whether Government propose to set a final deadline on the validity of draft notification and proceed with the notification to protect our national interests on ecology and environment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The draft notification provides for detailed discussions with the development agencies, NGOs and all the other concerned parties before it can be finalised by duly incorporating, where possible, the suggestions and comments offered. Chief Ministers of some States, however, suggested that this matter needs to be first discussed with the Prime Minister. Meanwhile, date for finalisation of the notification has been extended a number of times so as to incorporate the decisions of this discussion. The last date presently set for gazetting the notification is 27th January 1993.

Setting up of a Cell for Sanitation

2381. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a cell dealing with sanitation in his Ministry;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to set up a sanitation cell in the Ministry of Environment and Forests as the matter of sanitation is dealt in the Ministries of Urban Development and of Rural Development.